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Hanging around at the new playground

Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock MPP Laurie Scott tries out the zipline at the brand new Head Lake Park playground during the grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 23. See more photos on page 8. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

New COVID-19 variants aren't as severe as previous strains: physician

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local public health officials are preparing for another "atypical" respiratory season.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and the CEO at the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, said health professionals have been getting questions from the community about

what to expect from respiratory ailments this time of the year.

Fall in general is an incredibly busy time for the health unit as is the same across many other sectors, she said.

"In general, we're preparing folks for what's considered to be another atypical respiratory season," Bocking said. "Atypical is in comparison to pre-pandemic."

Public health officials expect influenza season to begin early again and they expect to have some measure of COVID-

19 infections.

"And we're expecting other respiratory viruses to still be somewhat higher than what we saw pre-pandemic," she said.

The components of readiness include surveillance and data collection, supports for infection prevention and control, public education, vaccination, testing, and treatment.

Last year's flu season was intense, she said. It began earlier and peaked earlier than previous years, and that had a

number of implications for Emergency Departments, hospitals, and long-term care homes.

In the southern hemisphere, which has traditionally indicated what can be expected from flu season in Canada and the U.S., children have been particularly affected.

Regarding the coronavirus, Bocking said there's been a relatively long spell of few hospitalizations. When you think see VACCINATION page 4

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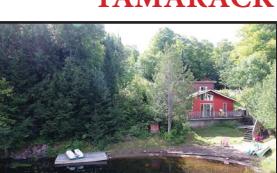
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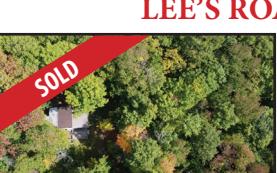
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Tensions were high in Haliburton as 1 Million March 4 Children protestors walked along Head Lake toward the public schools with counter-protestors lining both sides of the walkway on Wednesday, Sept. 20. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

'You're saying we don't exist': why Minden Pride stood their ground

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

On Sept. 20, a protest was scheduled for Head Lake Park titled the 1 Million March 4 Children.

The idea behind the march was to fight against the current public school curriculum, which teaches diversity, inclusion, and 2SLGBTQIA+ areas of interest. According to the nation-wide website, participants were adamant about "advocating for the elimination of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) curriculum, pronouns, gender ideology and mixed bathrooms in schools."

The march was scheduled to occur in communities around the country, but when word got out about the transphobic undertones of the protest, people started standing up. "It's a rhetoric I didn't think we'd ever have to experience here in Canada," said Minden Pride chair Allan Guinan, "we had people in tears. If this is removed from the curriculum, what does that say to the queer community? You're saying we don't exist. And that's very offensive to those of us trying to make a difference in the community."

While counter protests sprouted up across the country, Haliburton County jumped onboard. In less than 48

hours, the movement gained momentum across various online platforms, resulting in well over 100 attending the day of; more than the number of attendees at the originally scheduled protest.

"We had established ahead of time with the protestors that this would be a peaceful protest," shared Guinan, "but what was missing was an opportunity for any dialogue, and really, we all wanted the same thing."

Guinan was referencing the desire for education, safety, and protection of children and youth. "But one group is doing that by withholding information, and the other is being open and educating people," he said.

While some protestors marched strictly for the change in the curriculum, Guinan noted that there were others that seemed to have a more transparent agenda. "There was much more blatant homophobia seen than what we were expecting," he said, "and we noticed that by what was written on some of the signs."

The silver lining to the emotionally charged day was the support seen in the form of the counter protest. "In the eight years that Minden Pride has been around in the Haliburton Highlands, we now see we have an audience. A base of people that believe in the same values we are supporting," he said. "So together, we can find solutions and opportunities to help wherever we can."



A little Minden Pride counter-protest attendee holds pride flags before the march. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Students honour veterans

Veterans Decoration Day put on by the Royal Canadian Legion was held at Evergreen and St. Anthony Cemeteries in Haliburton on Monday, Sept. 18 where Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students placed white crosses at the gravesides of veterans following the opening ceremonies. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



An HHSS student places a cross at a gravesite.



Veterans Decoration Day put on by the Royal Canadian Legion was held at Evergreen and St. Anthony Cemeteries in Haliburton on Monday, Sept. 18 where Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students placed white crosses at the gravesides of veterans following the opening ceremonies.

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Dysart splits pair of missed septic inspection fines

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

If you miss rescheduling a septic inspection appointment for medical reasons, you'll be dinged for only half the fine.

That's what council decided Aug. 22 in dealing with a request from Chandler Drive resident Judith Kingstone for relief from a missed sewage system inspection fee. Council also addressed a similar request from Victor Neimi Lane resident Mike Waller.

Kingstone said she was penalized \$197 for not being at her cottage June 9 to meet the municipal sewage inspector. She said she paid the fine, but she asked council to give her a refund or credit on her 2024 tax bill.

"In terms of explanation, the reason that I could not be present for the original inspection was that my husband became ill the day before the inspection, on June 8, and he required medical attention," Kingstone wrote.

"We were in Toronto and were too con-

cerned about my husband's health to remember to alert you to the situation."

Karl Korpela, chief building official, said the municipality requires up to five days' notice from the property owner to cancel a scheduled septic system inspection. That's included in the bylaw itself.

"We do accept lesser notice for cancelling an inspection, but in this case we didn't receive any request to cancel the inspection," he said.

Bri Quinn, supervisor of Dysart's septic inspection program, said letters sent to property owners state that five business days' notice is required to reschedule an inspection.

"Basically just because of the number of properties we're dealing with and the staffing that we have inside," Quinn said. "It's just hopefully alleviating any kind of missed requests, either when it comes in by email or phone. It gives us a chance to reschedule."

She said inspections for specific areas are rescheduled for the same day. They try for as many visits to an area as they can, so appointments are "lumped" by area.

"We can't reschedule something that we weren't notified of," she said. "In this case, we did attend the property."

In her letter to council, Kingstone said that township staff called her on June 9.

"That's not the case," Quinn said. "Our notice that we leave on site just says that we tried to contact or make contact with the property owner."

"We don't have phone numbers for all property owners."

Inspectors will try every entrance to a property and even check the waterfront in case the owners are on a dock, enjoying their day, she said.

"I'd say I would be prepared to split it with her," said Mayor Murray Fearrey. "That's meeting her halfway."

Waller visited the town hall on the day of his inspection Aug. 10. Quinn said he was told the inspection was slated for that same day.

"We are very conscientious about waterfront conservation, preserving wildlife, and recycling," he wrote, and added that he's the president of his lake association and president at the Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion branch.

"He did rush home and, at the time, our inspection had already been on-site," Quinn said.

She said a portion of the inspection was completed.

"If we can do at least part of it (an inspection), we'll try to save a bit of the fee for when we return," she said.

However, the septic lids weren't accessible and the inspector offered to return that day if Waller uncovered the lids.

"That day, we had a pretty good downpour of rain," Quinn said.

Quinn said that, if it hadn't rained, Waller would only have the regular \$197 inspection fee to pay.

"So the difference is \$100 then," Fearrey said.

The inspector had 11 inspections scheduled that day, six of them being on Loon Lake Road with five on the same road as Waller's property.

Quinn said Waller was invoiced for a "not prepared inspection fee" as the tank

lids were covered, and a partial fee because some of the inspection had taken place. He was dinged for \$297.

"I can understand the frustration there, for sure," Quinn said. "But we did our best to be as flexible as we could with regards to our timing and availability."

She said a letter was sent to Waller's address.

She said he never received the letter.

But Quinn said there's no record of the letter having been returned.

In his missive to council, Waller asked that the fees be waived because he did not receive a letter and the inspection wasn't confirmed by him.

Quinn said that confirmation of the inspection date is basically a courtesy. As per the bylaw, the inspection will occur regardless.

Waller acknowledged that the inspector couldn't return that same day because of the rainfall. But he said the inspection was completed the following morning, along with others on Loon Lake.

"Are these people also charged because it poured rain?" he wrote.

"We do our inspections rain or shine," Quinn said and added that the inspector completed the day's schedule. "He just didn't do a return visit (to Waller) because of the weather."

She said each of the day's 11 properties were attended by the inspector and that fulfilled their responsibilities.

"If he didn't have the tanks or the lids uncovered when you went there, you wouldn't have been able to complete it anyway," Fearrey said.

"Right," said Quinn.

"I don't know that we should be giving him anything back," Fearrey said.

Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie suggested the penalty be split.

A little afterwards, Fearrey said: "If you weren't ready when they (the inspector) came the first time, they had to come back. And that's why we're charging the \$100. I mean, we've got a principle here."

In the end, council decided to split only the fee for the missed inspection.

Vaccination landscape gets more 'complicated'

from page 1

about the summer, there was little word about COVID-19.

However, data from wastewater surveillance across provinces has shown an increase and hospitalizations are beginning to rise.

"We're not seeing a lot locally yet, but we are anticipating for that to increase," she said.

She said the coronavirus continues to mutate and evolve and there now is a number of "recombinant variants."

Recombinant means more than one variant have mutated together to form a whole new variant, Bocking said. Descendants of the XBB variant continue to dominate.

"The good news is we've not had a new variant that has set us back similar to what happened with omicron," she said. "New variants, while they're very, very contagious, they do not seem to be causing more severe illness than previous variants."

Bocking said there's a lot of work that goes into the beginning of a season in preparation for worst case scenarios.

"The vaccination landscape continues to get a little more complicated or nuanced," she said and added that three main vaccinations should be considered

this fall.

They're the flu and COVID-19 vaccines, plus a new vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) that's "specifically for residents of long-term care homes that are older than 60 years of age."

Ontario is the first jurisdiction in the world to roll out an RSV vaccine for at-risk seniors, she said.

The updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines are prioritized by segments of the population at higher risk. The high-risk campaign takes place throughout October before it opens for general population.

It continues to be recommended that vaccines be taken six months apart, she said.

"The shifting of the landscape for COVID-19 vaccines is that we're really not referring to it as booster doses as much," Bocking said. "It's aligning more with the influenza vaccine."

Annual flu shots aren't called boosters, she said.

"COVID-19, the vaccine, might not ever quite be the same as influenza in terms of being able to match the strains exactly because it mutates so quickly," she said. "But it's moving closer in that direction and maybe someday we will reach that point."

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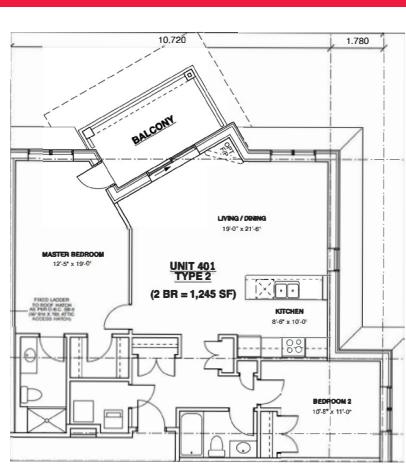
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Dysart asks that personal docks be removed

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Personal docks stored on the Haliburton Lake beach have drawn the ire of some residents.

Andrea Mueller, manager of programs and events,

Dysart septic inspectors were busy in July, August

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart residents who scheduled septic system inspections to take place after Sept. 1 will pay a higher fee.

Bri Quinn, the township's sewage system maintenance program supervisor, said that higher inspection fee is because the inspection program ended for the summer on Sept. 1.

There have been some people who pushed their inspections into mid-September and into October, based on their availability, she said.

"So those properties, for the most part, are going to be charged with the increased inspection fee because it's outside of our schedule," Quinn said.

Septic maintenance program inspectors are people hired to work through the summer. Properties to be evaluated after the program's end will take a regular municipal staffer out of the office.

And that's the reason for the higher rate.

"We don't have seasonal staff anymore," she said.

As part of the program, more than 300 properties were inspected in July across 12 lakes.

In May, June, and July, properties on as many as 18 lakes were visited in under 60 days. To date, 382 out of 831 properties have fully completed their inspection process and any remedial action requirements.

In a report to council, Quinn said inspectors had an increase in call and email volume largely with people working towards rectifying outstanding compliance concerns.

Staff in the field and in the office worked hard to follow up with property owners and provide the best customer service achievable.

"At the end of July, we were well over halfway through our scheduled properties and began working on secondary inspection attempts for properties that were not completed on their first scheduled inspection attempt," she wrote to council.

"August was another busy month and a report will follow with those updates as timely as possible."

said during Dysart township council's meeting Sept. 12 that the Encroachment Bylaw needs to be enforced.

She said there's been a number of complaints about docks stored on municipal property. Not the docks owned by the cottage association. Rather, some people have taken umbrage with personal docks being stowed on public land and boat launches.

"These are personal docks," she said. "They're quite large in size."

She said some of them had cement blocks anchored into the beach.

"Some of the things with these pose hazards to people trying to enjoy the area," Mueller said. "There were some nails poking out."

Over the Labour Day weekend, several docks were anchored to the Haliburton Lake municipal beach. The docks have ropes running across the beach to tie them off to trees or other structures.

There's concern that, as the docks were pulled up onto the beach during the Labour Day weekend, perhaps that's indication the owners won't be back to put them into the water until next year.

In a report to council, Mueller wrote that there had been issues last year with a barge tied off at the Eagle

Lake beach. Concerns about safety had been expressed then about people jumping into the water from the barge.

"If someone gets hurt from one of these docks/watercraft, the municipality may be found liable," Mueller wrote in her report. "Encroachment on municipal property is not permitted as per the Encroachment Bylaw."

She said staff were looking to council for permission to start enforcing the bylaw.

"There is a bylaw now that's already in place," Mayor Murray Fearrey said.

"I guess it hasn't been enforced, as far as I know," Mueller said.

"I think part of it was we wanted to create an opportunity for some public awareness, too," said Mallory Bishop, the municipality's clerk.

Bishop suggested municipal staff put a notice sticker on the docks in question, something to inform the owners that they have a month to remove the offending structure.

"I think some of the cottage associations, I can't speak for all of them, but I think some of them would be willing to help put the messaging out," Mueller said.

Council agreed to have staff enforce the Encroachment Bylaw.



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Monkeys in the middle

TIMING IS really incredible sometimes. Or should I say ironic?

If Head Lake Park actually had a head with a thinking brain, I wonder if it would be reeling like mine after all that occurred there this past week.

Like Emily Stonehouse says in her *Minden Times* editorial this week, I too am struggling to find all the proper words.

I've written and re-written this many times, but not as many times as I've thought about the protest held at that park last Wednesday, similar to hundreds of others across the country.

Around 100 people gathered at that park on one side for the 1 Million March 4 Children protest.

Around 100 others gathered on the opposite side of the parking lot for the Minden Pride counter-protest.

Only 100 metres of space separated the two groups physically, but ideologically, it felt like 100 thousand metres were between them.

The removal of COVID-19 mandates didn't change the polarization of the county, the country, for that matter.

Now, it's a different battle.

What concerns me most is that kids are the "monkeys in the middle."

After witnessing the rally on Wednesday, I can't lie about feeling ill, and sad, and afraid for those "monkeys in the middle."

I was upset, and didn't want to interact with anyone else that day. Some of the signs I saw marching through and the words I heard being exchanged left me in disbelief, and wondering how our little town can hold so much hostility, and rejection.

That one hour drained me for the next 24, and I've heard from others that it did the same.

Again, I wrote this editorial many times, wondering what parts to say out loud. How to get my words out.



vivian
collings

Editorial

You can find endless news articles on similar protests.

In a world filled with hate and unacceptance, giving it more attention here feels counter-productive.

I want to instead focus on the Head Lake Park playground in the midst of all of this.

On Saturday, that very same park was filled with joy.

Hundreds of kids, parents, grandparents, and friends gathered at the park to play on the new playground and to attend ColourFest.

With the harvest sun beaming down and a warm breeze enveloping the

park coming from the lake, the collective feeling was the complete opposite from a few days before.

Many around me remarked on the sounds of that day.

Children's laughter resounded through Haliburton.

All playing together, happily, safely.

And parents watched. Some played, too.

As I walked around with my camera in hand, taking it in, I

couldn't help but think some, if not all, of those adults would've stood on one side or the other on Wednesday.

But here they were, playing together, talking, smiling, with complete acceptance.

Just like their children were doing, too.

And that's just it, isn't it.

We need look no further than those kids on that playground. Treating each other equally, with complete acceptance, for exactly who they are.

And that playground is one of the best examples of why it's important for kids to have a safe space to do so. That's what cultivates a feeling of security, creativity, and joy - essential to growing healthily.

We can learn a thing or two about what it means to be loving and accepting humans from those monkeys.



The Northern Lights in Haliburton County on Sunday, Sept. 24.

By Cody Evans

Henry

JIM AND I were in Orillia on the weekend for his brother's wedding. It was such a happy occasion.

Rob has had a lot of tragedy in his life, and we were so happy to celebrate with him.

The morning after the wedding, we headed up to his farm. It's where he and Jim grow their 5000 bulbs of garlic every year.

Rob isn't living there anymore - he rents it out to a young family. The young family has three boys aged 10 months, 5 years, and 7 years. The two older boys love Jim and Rob.

We arrived at the barn, and the boys and their two dogs came running down to meet us. "Jimmie, Jimmie, Hi Jimmie." They really love Jim.

They were so excited to tell us they were heading off to the Coldwater Fall Fair. They wondered if we could go with them. They wondered if we liked rides and candy apples.

They asked where Rob was and when he was coming to the farm. They love Rob, too.

Rob has a big tractor that he uses to cut his lawns, and the boys love to ride with him.

The boys had been at Rob's wedding, running around all night.

Their parents had catered the event, and the food was gourmet. Jim and Rob spend days at the farm preparing the soil for planting and then planting and harvesting the garlic.

The boys are glued to them as they work. I was meeting the boys for the first time, and the 5 year old took me aside to show me his sup-

plies for the fair.

He had his money, his juice box, sunglasses and a card for his mom all stored in his little pink sparkling purse. He was ready for a great day.

When Jim and Rob work at the farm, this little guy comes out to help dressed in his favourite flowing blue and pink and colourful dresses. He runs around pulling garlic, or digging in the soil or riding in the tractor in his dress. He is happy and loved.

This is what we want for all kids. To be happy and loved. Henry is loved, and he knows it. He's not trying to be something or someone he isn't. He isn't trying to get his brother to wear a dress.

And no-one knows what the dress is about at this point anyways. He might just like playing dress up. Maybe he feels more comfortable in a dress, or he likes the colours.

It doesn't matter. He is allowed to dress as he wants without one comment from anyone. If Henry is straight or gay, it's the way he came into the world.

And our responsibility as friends, parents, grandparents, teachers, siblings, co-workers is to love him and encourage him to grow into a loving, caring person. When kids aren't accepted for who they are and aren't free to express who they are, mental health can suffer, and that can lead to all kinds of issues.

If Henry grows up in a loving family and society, anything is possible.

Love will always be stronger than fear or hate.

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points of view

Oh yes, we have no bananas

I'M NOT entirely certain we have entered the end times yet, but I do know almost all the signs are there. For instance, I went to the grocery store the other day and they were out of bananas.

This would not have been such a big deal had Jenn not specifically asked me to get some.

In response, I looked at her, winked, and said, "Don't worry Jenn. I won't let you down. I'll get you a nice bunch of bananas. You can count on me. Honestly. If there's one thing I know how to do, it's go to the grocery store and buy bananas. I'm known for it. My banana purchasing skills are strong. Trust me, I won't come back without bananas. You have my word ..."

Perhaps I should explain that bananas are a staple in our house these days because we just got a new Nutra-bullet blender, and we have been on a bit of a smoothie kick. OK,

it would be more accurate to say I have developed an addiction to smoothies, and as we all know, addicts do strange and desperate things, which also might explain this column.

Even worse, there was a banana shortage in our house. We were down to our last banana, and that wouldn't do.

This is why I nearly went into panic mode when I noticed the section that generally is filled with bananas was devoid of them. And also why I accosted a passing produce section employee and said, perhaps a bit too desperately,

"Hey Mr. Tally Man, when is the next shipment of bananas arriving?"

To this, he had no answer.

The thought of returning home empty handed consumed me.

When I arrived there, I brought in all the groceries and, after helping me put them away, Jenn looked around and said, "You didn't get any bananas?"

"Oh, did I say I would?" I replied.

She gave me a stern look.

"Now I remember," I said. "I left them in the front seat of the car. I'll be back in a second."

The drive to the second grocery store was relatively uneventful. And other than me being a little too celebratory when I saw they were flush with a fresh shipment of bananas, I think I handled it well.

"Smoothie addiction?" The lady beside me whispered.

"Why would you think that?" I replied.

"You're way too happy to see these bananas," she mumbled.

"I need some for my pet monkey," I lied.

"I was up to three glasses a day," she uttered.

"I can quit any time I like," I replied.

"Sure," she said.

When I got home, Jenn had already used the last banana and was enjoying a wonderful looking fruit smoothie. And, just to show she wasn't hooked, she only drank half and then walked it to the fridge.

"I'll finish it later," she said. "Are you making one?"

Suddenly, I thought about what I had just done – and, despite my self-loathing, put three bunches of bananas in the fruit basket, ripped one from the bunch and then started fumbling with it nervously.

After a futile attempt, I put it down unopened and tried another, and failed. Then I failed to open two more. Finally, I said, "I think I'm done with smoothies."

Jenn looked at me sympathetically and then made me one. I guess she knew I wasn't peeling too well.



Loon Tales

steve
galea



pic of the past

The year was 1951 and as you can see by this photo of a large crowd turned out to a Red Cross dance in the Legion auditorium in Haliburton. Identified in this photo are Norm Grose, far left, and Hugh Burke, front and centre. The Haliburton Red Cross Society held an annual dance at the Legion Hall into the late 1970s. It was one of the main highlights of the year. /From the Echo archives

letters to the editor

Minden Pride - no space for hate

To the Editor,

On behalf of Minden Pride, thank you to everyone who joined our peaceful counter-protest against the 1 Million March 4 Children on Sept. 20. In under 24 hours, we assembled a large and spirited group of supporters to counter the anti-LGBTQ demonstrators.

The protestors' stated goal is to eliminate Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) curriculum in schools, inclusive approaches to pronouns, gender ideology and mixed bathrooms in our schools across Canada.

The protestors claim SOGI leads to the sexualization of children. Under the guise of 'parental rights', they further claim to be protecting children's innocence, and that they harbour no anti-LGBTQ sentiment.

Really? Organized messaging from their group spoke of a very different agenda. Hateful signage using language such as "grooming" and "indoctrination" proved otherwise. A protestor identified us as "pedophiles" and stated we will "burn in hell" for our 'lifestyle'. Their invoking of "family values" insults our entire commu-

nity, as though we do not have families or carry positive values.

The protestors argue teaching kids about "queer ideology" will sexualize young children.

Being gay, bisexual, transgender or anywhere on the gender and sexuality spectrum is *not* an ideology. 'Indoctrination' is not reality. To be queer is simply a biological fact.

Eliminating SOGI would leave all students, straight and queer, with no education in sexual and gender diversity nor build on principles of an inclusive society. We believe this to be highly discriminating and especially dangerous to those youth in our community who may be struggling with their own sexual or gender identity.

For the past eight years Minden Pride has proudly stood for a kinder, inclusive community. This demonstration has galvanized our resolve even further. There is no place for oppression and hate in our county. We will continue to fight to protect the rights of everyone to live an open and safe life in the Haliburton Highlands.

Allan Guinan,
Minden

Haliburton Rotary membership information open house

The Rotary Club of Haliburton is pleased to host a Membership Information Open House at the Haliburton Legion Hall at 719 Mountain St. on Thursday, Oct. 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Meet the local Rotarians and learn about the club's various community projects and activities. If you are looking to meet new people,

contribute to your community and have some fun at our social and fellowship activities, we encourage you to attend. Attendance is free and light refreshments will be served.

You are free to drop in but we encourage you to RSVP at haliburtonrotary@gmail.com.

Grand opening brings hundreds of smiles

The Head Lake Park playground fundraising committee beams while dozens of children play during the grand opening. The committee took charge of choosing playground designs and fundraising to build a new park for Haliburton from the ground up. From left, Alyson Bailey, Brandon Nimigon, Nicole Baumgartner-Spooner, Andrea Mueller, Stephanie Ward, and Jessica Madamba smile for a photo. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Freddie Mardus tests out the new playground on Saturday.

Autumn amusement

Haliburton's annual Colourfest took place on Saturday where hundreds of people flocked to Head Lake Park for some fall fun. From pumpkin rolling and scarecrow building to antique cars and inflatable games, Colour Fest offered things to do for all ages under perfect weather conditions. Aurora, 2, enjoys her time at the bouncy castle. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo



Benedikt Steinhoff, 10, is all thumbs-up after building a scarecrow at Colourfest on Saturday.



People stroll past antique vehicles at Saturday's Colourfest.



Pockets shows Senna Ernst, 8, the finishing touches of her face paint design.

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HEALTH UNIT**

Fall 2023

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\$40 per animal. Cash only.
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County of Haliburton

Friday, September 29, 2023
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Haliburton Feed and Seed
138 Mallard Road, Haliburton
Provided by Cambray Veterinary Services



Bring:
Proof of previous rabies
vaccination (if possible).

The return of Razzamataz

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the future of many things was unknown. In our community, the component that was often in question, was whether or not the theatre would continue.

While there is a fairly established theatrical crowd, Razzamataz Kids Shows faced some uncertainty. Namely because their audience was shifting, and growing older.

Razz has been around for decades in the community, providing high quality, affordable theatre experiences for all ages. While the committee took a hiatus during the COVID years, they were able to jump in with two feet as soon as the green light was granted. "Post-COVID our team grew from four to 11 people," said Nicole Stewart, the chair of the committee, "While some of our members have changed, our goal remains the same - to give children an memorable, meaningful theatre experience, close to home."

Last year, the committee set out with this goal in mind. They also challenged themselves to fill the theatre, and as their reputation grew around the community over the year, so did their audience sizes.

This has given the committee the energy they needed to dedicate themselves to another full season ahead. "This year differs from other years since we are offering more shows this year than ever before," said Stewart, noting that the first show kicks off on Sunday, Oct. 1 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton.

Their season debut will be Th'owaxyia,



Th'owaxyia is the first of five productions in the Razzamataz 2023/2024 lineup, kicking off the season with a beloved First Nations tale that will charm children of all ages. /Photo submitted

a Kwantlen First Nations tale about an old hungry spirit who inhabits a feast dish. When a little mouse is caught stealing from the dish, he must appease the Ogress ... or else.

Th'owaxyia is the first of five productions in the 2023/2024 lineup. "The season includes an Indigenous tale, colourful puppets, clowns and bass instruments,

a magic show, and an Indigenous dance from the BC Northwest Coast," said Stewart. "We will also be offering a marionette puppet workshop in November and a brass instrument workshop in February."

Each show promises to be interactive and engaging, and allows families a unique theatrical opportunity to introduce their children to the magic of live

performances, right here in Haliburton County.

Razzamataz is a registered not for profit, and the committee is run entirely by volunteers. For more information on what Razz has to offer, or to purchase tickets for upcoming shows, visit www.razzamataz.ca.



Haliburton Highlands Health Services Now Seeking Members for Community Advisory Committee

Haliburton Highlands Health Services is seeking community-minded individuals interested in serving on a 12-member Community Advisory Committee, responsible for providing advice and insight to its Board of Directors on the delivery and future planning of community services in Haliburton County. The Advisory Committee will also provide linkages to the community on trends and issues related to the community services.

Key functions of the Community Advisory Committee will include providing advice on:

- Needs of community services clients
- The unique and diverse needs of the Haliburton community
- Further opportunities for partnership and collaboration
- Best approaches for communicating with the community
- Feedback on the delivery of community services and future planning for services

The Committee generally meets on Thursday mornings 3 times per year (Nov 30, 2023, Feb 29, 2024 and May 9, 2024). In addition, work groups may meet at other times convenient to the individual members.

If you feel you have the time, energy and commitment to be a member of this year's Community Advisory Committee, then we would like to hear from you by **October 6, 2023**.

For further information and an application package, please contact: Michel Henry via email at mhenry@hhhs.ca OR phone Michel at (705) 457-1392 Extension 2248.

Leaves & Yard Waste

As autumn begins, look after your leaves and yard waste.

Manage leaves and yard waste on your own property for free:



Mulch Leaves

Use your mower to mulch leaves on the lawn and improve your lawn health.



Compost

Place leaves in your backyard composter. Add "green" materials like fruits and vegetable peelings.



Let it be

Pile fallen leaves and yard waste on your own private property. Let nature do its thing!

Or for a fee, drop-off leaves and yard waste at the Haliburton, Harcourt, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours:



Bagged Yard Waste

\$2.00 per paper bag



Loose Yard Waste

\$15.00 if less than one cubic yard



Brush & Tree Branches

\$50.00 per cubic yard

Yard waste in plastic bags NOT accepted

\$30.00 per cubic yard (starting at one cubic yard)

Tree stumps NOT accepted



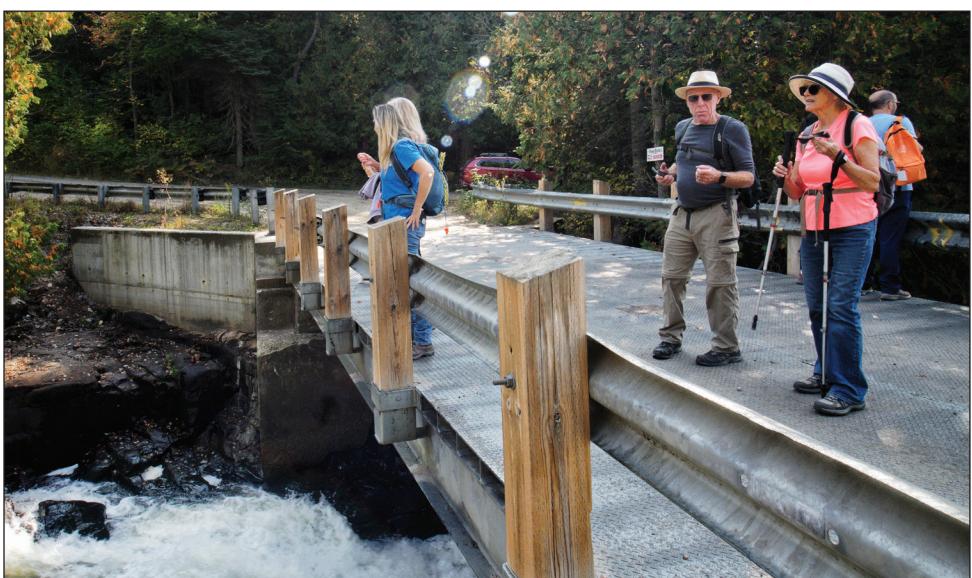
Municipality of
Dysart et al

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Hike leader and guide Cara Oleksuk chats about some of the wildlife that call the area home during a guided hike to Ritchie Falls on Sunday.



Hikers take in the views at Ritchie Falls on Sunday as part of the Hike Haliburton Festival.

Home Game

VS

Saturday, September 30 @ 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Home Games

October 7
4:00 p.m.

October 14
4:00 p.m.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena
For more information please visit our website

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HHHS Foundation AGM highlights 2022 year

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

The change in season brings on the yearly Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation AGM. The numbers in review were from 2022, with 2023 numbers still not completed until the end of the fiscal year.

"It has been an interesting year, to say the least," said HHHSF chair Eric Recalla, referencing that 2022 was really the first year that mirrored some sense of normalcy after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting started with an annual auditors report, during which time Ali Ahmed presented the financial statements, and noted that there were "no significant items in the balance sheet."

The meeting then shifted over to Melanie Klodt Wong, the executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, who provided an overview of the 2022/2023 year.

"The pandemic has had a major effect on giving," said Klodt Wong, "but some of the donors are giving because they received amazing care [from HHHS]."

At this time, there are 1934 active donors, with the average revenue per donor landing at \$509. She noted that the retained donors had taken a dip at -27 per cent, but the 437 new donors have provided \$290,000 in revenue over the past year.

Out of that amount, the Foundation has transferred \$284,279 towards capital equipment at HHHS, \$50,000 towards community support services subsidies, and \$12,506 to education assistance programs. Klodt Wong noted that they are seeing an increase in the latter program for the 2023/2024 season already: "people want to stay in this community based

on the education they are receiving here," she said.

Beyond the private donors, Klodt Wong also shared the successes of the fundraisers offered through the Foundation over the 2022 year; including the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic and the Health Radiothon, which took a dent out of the \$100,000 price tag for the Smart IV Pumps needed at the hospitals.

The agenda then shifted gears to introduce Veronica Nelson, HHHS interim president and CEO, who provided a short recap on the 2022 year prior to her arrival on the scene, and moved forward with the roll out of a five year strategic plan for moving forward.

Nelson opened by acknowledging the hard work of the team. "Our staff goes above and beyond every day," she said, noting that they would not be able to do what they do without them.

The 2022/2023 strategic priorities were driven by the notion of being leaders in innovative rural health care, with the main pillars revolving around advancing partnerships, building their capacity to thrive, and transforming the health services experiences, all while under the umbrella of investing in the people; staff, residents, and partners.

In terms of advancing partnerships, in 2022, HHHS integrated a technology called "Ocean" into their services, which is an electronic referral program to the seven Central East hospitals' clinics and services. They also introduced a technology where patients can have access to their own records through an app, but at the time of the presentation, only five per cent of patients were utilizing the service. Nelson hopes to increase that number through marketing the program effectively.

She noted that this past year, they

added accessible automatic doors at the Haliburton site, and intend to add accessible features and doors to the Minden site this coming year.

Nelson provided a breakdown of the hospital visits from 2022/early 2023, which included 14,288 to the Minden site, 10,413 to the Haliburton site, 4549 Haliburton inpatient days, and 435 Haliburton hospital discharges. "We can see that a lot of patients stay a long time at the inpatient beds," she noted. These numbers are from the 2022 year, and prior to the Minden emergency department closure in June of 2023.

The acting president and CAO gave a nod towards the upcoming strategic plan, which will be in place from 2023 to 2028, and is in the process of a "soft launch"

before it is added to the HHHS website. While the purposes and values of the previous plan will stay in place; namely the optimization of health and wellbeing in Haliburton County and the continual mandates of compassion, accountability, integrity, and respect, Nelson plans on adding some new components to the plan moving forward.

These directions include making HHHS recognized as a great place to work, understanding and securing future resources, nurturing a supportive and inclusive environment for the team to thrive, and fostering partnerships to provide more seamless and integrated care.

The overview of the 2023/2024 year will be shared at next year's AGM.

Municipality of Dysart et al



135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- DATE: Wednesday, October 11th, 2023
- TIME: 11:00 am.
- LOCATION: The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom. The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing application and live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2023-020 2168036 Ontario Ltd

- The following variance is requested to permit a garage to have a decreased street setback on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

- a) A variance to Section 3.30(c) to permit a garage to have a street setback from the edge of the travelled portion of a Right of Way of 3 metres (9.8 feet) as opposed to the permitted 7.5 metres (25 feet).

- Location: Part Lot 31, Concession 6 and 7, Parts 1 and 2, 19R-4864, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

2. D13-MV-2023-021 Ordyniec

- The following variances are requested to legalize the location of a private cabin on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

- a) A variance to Section 3.1(d)(i) to permit a private cabin to be located within a front yard abutting a shoreline.

- b) A variance to Section 3.1(d)(v) to permit a private cabin to have a minimum interior side lot line setback of 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) as opposed to the permitted minimum of 4.5 metres (15 feet).

- Location: Part Lot 17, Concession 2, Lot 84, Plan 484, in the Geographic Township of Dudley, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at jiles@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

Lions Fall Harvest Dance supports HHHS diagnostic imaging

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

It's time to pull out your dancing shoes and favourite fall sweater, because the Haliburton & District Lions Club Fall Harvest Dance is back and jiving to support the new diagnostic imaging equipment coming to Haliburton Hospital.

The dance will be held on Friday, Oct. 6 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129, and funds raised will be split between the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation for a CT scanner and mammography unit and the Haliburton & District Lions Club for their community initiatives.

"The HHHS Foundation is thrilled to receive the support of the Haliburton and District Lion's Club through this fun and exciting event," said Melanie Klodt-Wong, HHHSF executive director. "The Foundation is working on raising funds for new and replacement of critical care Diagnostic Imaging equipment that supports the needs of the county, keeping EMS closer to home, making ER services more efficient and attracting more health care workers."

The Lions are working hard behind the scenes to put on a foot-stomping event in support of the community.

"Get your family and friends together, come on out, get your tickets today, and

we'll have a great night for raising funds for this community," said member of Haliburton & District Lions Club Andy Chvedukas. "There will be live music by Adverse Conditions, we will be providing beef on a bun, salad, and dessert, and we're also going to have door prizes, a live auction, 50/50 draw, and raffles."

To add to the excitement, a special guest will be attending.

Carl Dixon will be joining the band for a cameo appearance, and to add to the excitement, he has also graciously donated a private concert to be held at your location of choice as part of the live auction. We're very appreciative of this donation and for his dedication to the community," said Chvedukas.

Tickets are \$35 each or two for \$60.

Tickets can be ordered on haliburton-lions.com or by calling 705-457-1354.

"As we are still in the early days of planning a capital campaign, we are looking for folks who want to champion this cause and give generously. However, we know that this community that wants to do anything they can to support – that is where the Haliburton and District Lion's Club Autumn Harvest Dance comes in. It is a great way to have a fun night and raise money and awareness of this extremely important cause that will have a positive effect on the community," Klodt-Wong said.

Crossword brought to you by

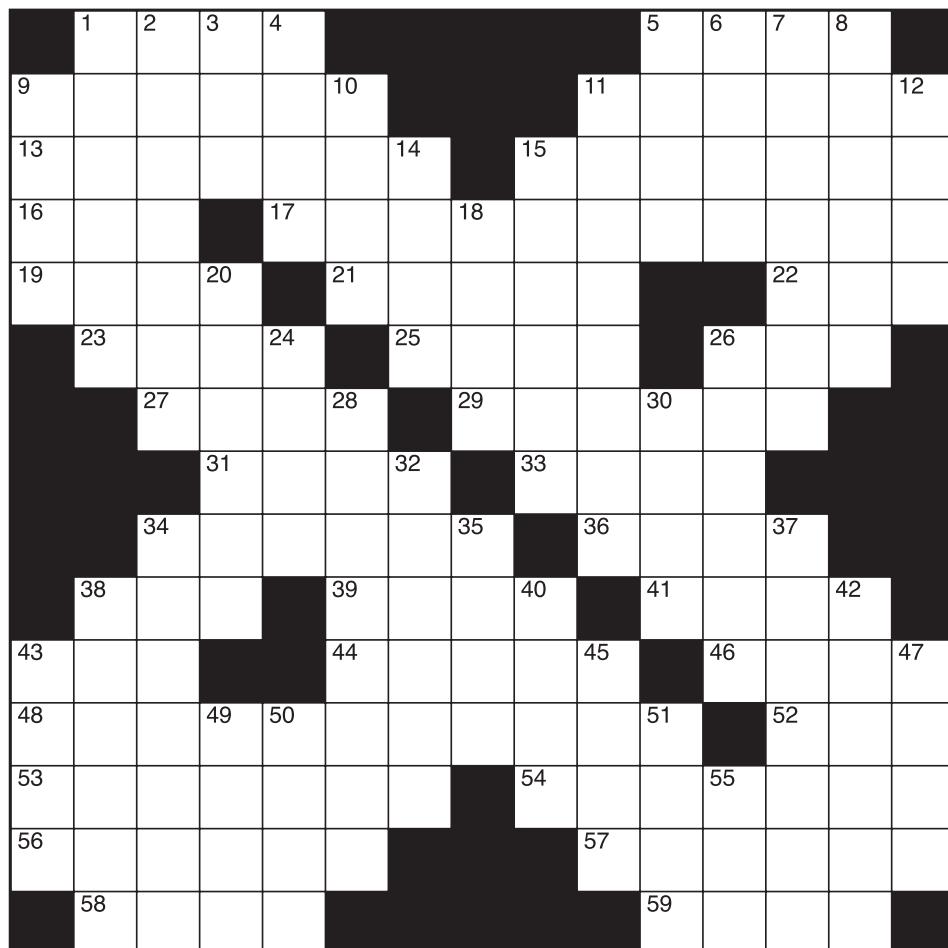
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Male children
5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to __"
9. Unfolded
11. Digestive disease
13. Wednesday
15. Malignant tumor
16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
17. Slowed
19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
21. Weights of cars without fuel
22. Former CIA
23. Asian country
25. Instead
26. Ancient Egyptian King
27. Privies
29. Shopping trips
31. Paradoxical anecdote
33. It's on the table
34. Ancient Persia ruler
36. Small American rail
38. File extension
39. Days (Spanish)
41. Everyone has one
43. South American plant
44. About ilium
46. Vanished American hoopster Bison
48. A type of breakfast
52. Uncooked
53. Examined
54. Christian recluse
56. Strong posts
57. Some are for pasta
58. Skinny
59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

1. Ringlet
2. Type of complex
3. Midway between north and northwest
4. It becomes something bigger
5. German courtesy title
6. Genus of birds
7. Marked by public disorder
8. Least aggressive
9. Russian city
10. Insect repellent
11. Interruptions
12. Scoundrels
14. 1,000 calories
15. What one does overnight
18. Dwarf planet
20. Pipe
24. Black powdery substance
26. Set of four
28. Canned fishes
30. North Carolina college
32. Secured
34. A disgraceful event
35. Physical suffering
37. The home of the free
38. Some are boys
40. Satisfy
42. Makes very happy
43. South American plants
45. Modes of transportation
47. Female sheep
49. Type of torch
50. Piece of merchandise
51. Jump over
55. Wife of Amun

Answers on page 13



Ella Gooley waves to the crowd after singing O Canada at Saturday's Huskies game at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



Patrick Saini #75, left, celebrates his goal.

Huskies add first draw, bring unbeaten streak to five straight

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton County Huskies ended week three of the OJHL season with a win and a draw to bring their unbeaten streak to five consecutive games. Taking on the Stouffville Spirit and the Aurora Tigers, the Huskies were riding a wave of momentum following their stunning win against the JRC in week two.

Stifling the spirit

Thursday saw the Huskies venture out to Stouffville to take on former Husky Cam Kosurko. Despite losing to the Spirit in pre-season action, the Huskies were determined to change their fate in their first regular season meeting of the year.

Jack Staniland opened the scoring on the powerplay in the first, tipping in a shot from Ian Phillips. With score standing at 1-0 to end the first, the Huskies saw an offensive explosion in the second.

Declan Bowmaster added another powerplay goal to the tally, using a beautiful move to beat out Matteo Gennaro. Seven minutes later, Gavin McGahey-Smith added his first career OJHL goal. His goal ignited the Sprit bench in chirps, as McGahey-Smith had been the person who drew the penalties which led to the Sprits struggles.

3-0 after two the Huskies wanted to close out the game with a few more goals.

Johnathon Mead and Ian Phillips added goals of their own to bring the score to 5-0 with one minute to go. However, Vlad Visan's first career shutout would have to wait another day as Riley Pope would score with 44 seconds left to make the final score 5-1 Huskies.

Visan went 24 for 25 to bring the Huskies win streak to four in a row.

The troubling Tigers

Heading into the Saturday game against the Aurora Tigers, the Huskies had much momentum and looked for a fifth straight win.

Ty Petrou scored his first as a Husky at 1:32 of the first period, commanding the lead from the start of the game. With the first ending at 1-0, the second saw the Huskies momentum crack. Patrick Saini made the score 2-0 for



Isgaq Lamand #17 shoots on the net of the Aurora Tigers.

the Huskies, burying a beautiful between the legs move.

However, the Tigers added two of their own late in the second to tie the score at 2. Staniland gave Huskies fans some hope as he would restore the lead at 18:20 of the second. All the Huskies needed to do was hold on and they would see victory for a fifth straight time.

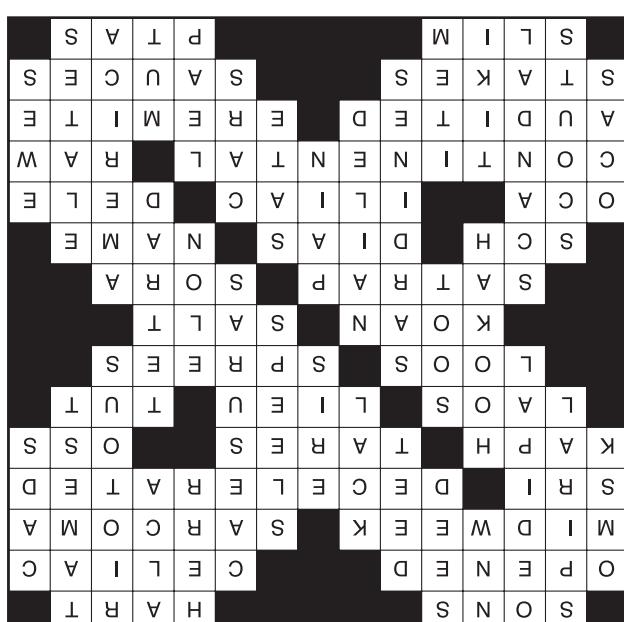
Ryan Evenhuis begged to differ, as he would bury an early third period goal to tie the game at 3 and send it to overtime. The first OT solved nothing, but the second OT saw the best chance for the Huskies. Bowmaster came in

on an odd man rush, and buried what he thought was the game winner. Tragically, with a ping of the cross bar the ref yelled "Play on!" and the Huskies and Tigers finished this one out in a draw.

The Haliburton County Huskies will be heading to Buffalo this week for the OJHL Governors Showcase. They will take on the JRC and the Oakville Blades at the LECOM Harborcentre, before heading back to Minden on Sept. 30 to play the Cobourg Cougars at 4 p.m.

The logo for Barry Miscio Contracting features a stylized green house with a gabled roof and a central entrance. Below the house is a circular map of Haliburton County, Ontario, with the text "HALIBURTON COUNTY Home Builders Association" around the perimeter. The company name "BARRY MISCIO CONTRACTING" is written in large, bold, white letters at the top of the map.

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How not to get scammed and other skills for modern life

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING

Special to the Echo

According to the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Fraud Study (2021), 73 per cent of Canadians have experienced a fraud attempt, and 33 per cent have fallen victim to fraud at some time in their lives. According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, so far in 2023 Canadians lost over \$200 million to fraud. Most fraud since 2021 has been via electronic means, whether that's been by phone, internet, text, social media, or email.

Scams are nothing new, and scammers have often evolved to use the tools of the day. In 300 BC a fellow named Hegestratos attempted to commit fraud when he took out a loan for his cargo using his ship as collateral, but planned to sink his emptied ship to avoid paying back the money he borrowed. Scammers who plied their trade before the telephone relied on the slowness of communication to operate, skipping one town for the next before their victims were wise to their tricks. Pre-Internet chain letter scams duped many into mailing money to strangers with the inevitably broken promise of receiving thousands of dollars in return. Today, internet, phone calls, texts, emails, and social media are the tools used for the bulk of scams Canadians are exposed to.

Technology has made many aspects of our lives easier and more efficient, but has also made many aspects of the scammer's trade easier and more efficient. Scammers can send out large numbers of messages to potential victims, hoping to hook someone in a moment of weakness. Malicious software can be easily launched via links in texts and emails and, without us knowing, capture personal and financial information on our devices. That's pretty scary and can make us feel helpless in an online world where it seems everyone is out to get us. But there are things we can do to keep ourselves safe and still enjoy the convenience and necessity of using technology in our daily lives.

To start, the Government of Canada has a thorough and easy to use online resource at GetCyberSafe.ca. Their website goes through everything from how to set up strong passwords, to two-factor authentication, to how to secure your devices, and even a checkup quiz to help you figure out if you should be doing more. GetCyberSafe.ca contains all the good advice for using your technology safely on one website from experts whose mission is to keep Canadians safe online. But even after you have followed the excellent advice at GetCyberSafe.ca, there are some mindset changes that can also help protect you when scammers inevitably reach out.

First, always remember that anyone can get scammed. Many scammers manipulate people into giving up personal and financial information willingly. They count on us falling for this manipulation in a moment of distractedness or stress. And no matter how clever we think we are, we all have moments where we are susceptible to being tricked. Often scammers will create a sense of urgency by telling their victims that they must provide money or information immediately or there will be some kind of consequence. The sense of urgency overrides our ability to think, and we go into action mode. But we need to take that sense of urgency and use it as a cue not to act on the demands of a stranger, but to pause and think.

Second, remember that you don't have to be polite to scammers. If you get one of those fake calls from "Microsoft," just hang up. You don't even owe them a "sorry, no thank you." If you get an unsolicited text or an email that says you need to click a link and enter your personal information, delete it. If you are followed on social media by a stranger who says they are in love with you, but can you please send them money, block and report their account. Personally, I don't even answer my phone for unfamiliar numbers. If it's actually important, they'll leave a message. You are never going to hurt a scammer's feelings; they will just move on to one of their other many potential victims.

Finally, check in with people you know. If you receive a strange email or Facebook message from someone you

know, contact them about it by another means. Maybe their accounts were compromised, and they don't know. If you are worried that a scammer did get access to your computer, talk to someone you know and trust to help you fix it. If you received a strange request from a stranger, run it by a trusted friend before you act on it. Scammers of old were often thwarted when folks started sharing what they found out about them, and same goes for now. As a community, we create safety when we help and support one another.

If you think you have been the victim of fraud, report it at the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website: antifraud-centre-centreatfraude.ca.



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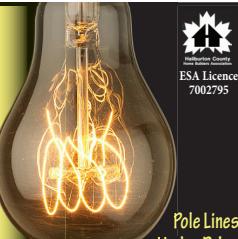
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* We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

520 THANK YOU

The family of the late Lorna Scheffee would like to Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the outpouring of love and kind words via Facebook, text and phone calls in regard to Mom.

Thank you to the staff at Haliburton Extendicare, you all went over and above to care for Mom. She loved you all very much. Aunt Pat thank you again for your help in relieving us for breakfast, lunch and supper. Randy Warburton for your kind words at her graveside service. Barry and Kirsten Monk for your care of Mom.

She will be missed by her family and her friends.

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650 OBITUARIES**Ptolemy, Douglas H**

October 8, 1934 – September 15, 2023

Family of Douglas Ptolemy of Milton, Ontario are saddened to announce his passing on Friday September 15, 2023, in his 89th year. Forever loved by his wife of 64 years, Anne Ptolemy (nee Kilgore). Survived by his loving children; Suzanne (Steve) D'Eon, Ian (Joanne Ranger) Ptolemy, Diana (Brian) Reichert and Michael (Mary Chung) Ptolemy. Forever remembered by his grandchildren; Michelle D'Eon, Andrea D'Eon, Katie Reichert and Evan Reichert and his brother-in-law John Kilgore of Ireland.

Born in Niagara-On-The-Lake, Doug was raised in Milton by his parents, Florence and Roger Ptolemy, attended Appleby College, Oakville, and worked many years, lastly as Personnel Manager, at P.L. Robertson, Milton's largest employer where Roger had been President. Doug then owned and operated Minto Marine in Minden, Ontario in the early 1970s, helping extend the legacy of May Minto's namesake cedar canoe, in the lake country he cherished as his summer home from 1940 to recent years. He also worked several years with Sun Life Canada.

Doug was an avid Curler and was a founding member of the Milton Curling Club, an excellent Golfer, Skier (downhill and water) and a lover of Nature and Horticulture, evident in the beautiful gardens and natural landscapes he and Anne created and maintained in both Milton and at Lake Kashagawigamog in Haliburton. In his 75th year, Doug suffered a debilitating stroke. With God's love and the unwavering support and strength of Anne, along with community agencies, and with his strong determination, he continued to persevere with a smile and friendly "Hi" to all who visited him.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to the LHIN (HCCSS) who provided homecare supports for the better part of 14 years, as well as the Bronte Team at Allendale Long Term Care who supported Doug during his final months. There will be a Private Family interment at Milton Evergreen Cemetery. A Celebration of Doug's Life will be arranged at a later date. Donations in honour of Doug can be made to Knox Presbyterian Church, Milton, or The Willow Foundation. Condolences and memories may be shared online at www.mckersieearly.com

570 NOTICES

Private Notice: Let it be known an unrebutted ecclesiastic agreement with witnesses has been reached between minister Surinder-Kaur and the private man Bob Hamilton acting as Commissioner of Revenue and the private woman Marie-Claude Bibeau acting as Minister of National Revenue. The full text of the scriptural agreement may be seen at <http://www.allcreatorsgifts.blogspot.com>

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THIS WEEK**



A lovesick moose
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draws a fascinated crowd
page 3

**A nurse's life
can be tough**
Job stress leads to request
for more help.
page 33

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WOODED BEAUTY:

The weekend's Studio Tour provided the perfect reason for hundreds of people to hit the Highlands' back roads. Not only were

the fall colours glorious, but the art was a delight to the eye as well. Above, marquetry artist and furniture maker Kevin Dunlop explains the technique of his work to some of the hundreds of people who came to his studio during the tour.

Teachers give "overwhelming" strike mandate

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

Elementary teachers with the Trillium Lakelands board of education have given their union an "overwhelming" strike mandate.

Following three separate meetings in Lindsay, Huntsville and Haliburton, 94 percent of the 780 elementary teachers said they will support a strike if contract negotiations break down.

"It's a decisive message to the Trillium Lakelands District School Board that elementary teachers are serious in their desire for a fair collective agreement," says John McClelland, president of the Trillium Lakelands branch of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario.

This does not mean a strike has been set. The Federation says it is still willing to negotiate with the board to come up with the first contract since the former boards of Victoria County, Haliburton County and Muskoka were amalgamated in January, 1998.

Knowing family life will be adversely affected by a strike,

Ontario Federation president Phyllis Benedict says teachers understand what a strike would mean to local families. "Obviously parents want to make sure their children are in school and we want stability."

Knowing family life will be adversely affected by a strike,

the teachers also want to ensure they get a fair agreement, Benedict says. "It's a fine balance. We want minimal disruptions but we want the board to know the teachers mean business."

See Teachers' page 4

County explores purchase of garbage incinerator

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

County council wants to look into the possibility of buying its own garbage incinerator before it enters into any partnerships with neighbouring municipalities.

The decision came after Peterborough invited Haliburton County to join in a feasibility

study for a "energy from waste" initiative.

Because of the large volume of garbage required for such a venture, Haliburton's waste would have to be trucked to Peterborough. This would be costly.

"If there's a model we can pick up on (for ourselves), we should explore it," Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey said at

the September 22 county council meeting.

"Let's create our own initiative," agreed Cardiff Reeve Doug Holman. "I'd rather see something happen in Haliburton County."

"The future is in incinerators," said Bcroft Reeve Bill Howe. "How much longer can you go

See Environment page 4

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